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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/923,609	08/07/2001	Peter Fuhrmann	DE 000120	1410

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EXAMINER

SHAH, CHIRAG G

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2664

DATE MAILED: 10/17/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/923,609	FUHRMANN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Chirag G. Shah	2664	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 7/29/05.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2-7 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 07 August 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 7/29/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Regarding claims 1 and 8, Applicant argues that Delcoco fails to recite or suggest an activity detector for detecting activities in the message signal coming from the assigned network node. Examiner respectfully disagrees and redirects the Application to Delcoco reference. Delcoco's reference clearly discloses in fig. 2 and in col. 2, lines 15-29 of a four node star coupled LAN, the star coupler comprise a plurality of interface means, corresponding to the optical transmission lines, for interfacing with the optical transmission lines. Each of the optical transmission lines connects the star network coupler to a communication node. The interface means provides line status signal indicating/detecting activity in the message signal (optical transmission line signal) associated with a node. Thus, the interface detects activities in the optical transmission line signal coming from a corresponding network node. Therefore, Delcoco respectfully teaches and/or suggests of an activity detector (interface means) for detecting activity (line status signal) in the message signal (optical transmission line signal) coming from the assigned network node (corresponding to a communication node). Since Delcoco references suggests and teaches every limitation of Applicants' claims 1 and 8, claims 1 and 8 respectfully remain unpatentable.

Art Unit: 2664

2. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Oath/Declaration

3. The Declaration properly signed by the Applicants and referring to the case by its Serial Number and filing date, in compliance with 37 CFR 1.63 is now approved by the Examiner.

Specification

4. The amended abstract of the disclosure is now approved by the Examiner.

Drawings

5. The drawings are objected to because Figs. 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 10 lack a descriptive legend is now approved by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. Claims 1 and 8 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Delcoco et al. (Patent No. 5,127,067), hereinafter referred as Delcoco.

Regarding claim 1, a network [as disclosed in **Fig. 2, four node star coupled LAN**] comprising

a plurality of network nodes [as disclosed in **Fig. 2, nodes 12a,12b,12c and 12d**] and one star node [**Fig. 2, star node 20**], which

star node [**Fig. 2, star node 20**] is provided from the direct coupling of at least two network nodes [as disclosed in **Fig. 2 and col. 3, lines 53-57, a star coupler 20 is directed coupled to corresponding four nodes 12a,12b,12c and 12d**], and includes

a plurality of star interfaces [as in **fig. 2, interfaces receivers 22a-d and transmitters 24a-d**] which are assigned to at least one network node [as disclosed in **Fig. 2 and in col. 3, lines 53-58, a star coupler node 20 includes receivers 22 and transmitters 24, which form an interface for the corresponding node 12.**

Establishing that interfaces 22a, 24a are assigned to network node 12a as in fig. 2]
and which

include each an activity detector **[interface means providing line status signal indicating activity, col. 2, lines 24-29]** for detecting activities in the message signal coming from the assigned network **[activity on corresponding optical transmission line associated with a node, col. 2, lines 24-29, fig.2]** node
[as disclosed in col. 2, lines 19-33, the star node includes a plurality of interface means, for interfacing with the optical transmission lines, the interface means provides a line status signal indicating activity on the corresponding optical transmission line] and

for transferring the message signal from the assigned network node to the other star interfaces or from another star interface to the assigned network node in dependence on at least one activity **[as disclosed in col. 2, lines 20-42 and claim 1, upon receiving a line status signal indicating activity from corresponding transmission line and the transmission data, the star node having a switching means (multiplexer implemented using NOR gates for switching/transferring the data to the destination node) for switching transmission data from each of the interface means to any one of the interface (destination) means, switching being dependent upon a ring protocol].**

Regarding claim 8, a star node **[Fig. 2, star node 20]** in a network **[as disclosed in Fig. 1, four node star coupled LAN]** comprising

a plurality of network nodes [as disclosed in **Fig. 2, nodes 12a,12b,12c and 12d**], which

star node [**Fig. 2, star node 20**] is arranged for providing a direct coupling of at least two network nodes [as disclosed in **Fig. 2 and col. 3, lines 53-57, a star coupler 20 is directed coupled to corresponding four nodes 12a,12b,12c and 12d**], and includes

a plurality of star interfaces [as in **fig. 2, interfaces receivers 22a-d and transmitters 24a-d**] which are assigned to at least one network node [as disclosed in **Fig. 2 and in col. 3, lines 53-58, a star coupler node 20 includes receivers 22 and transmitters 24, which form an interface for the corresponding node 12.**

Establishing that interfaces 22a, 24a are assigned to network node 12a as in fig. 2] and which

include each an activity detector [**interface means providing line status signal indicating activity, col. 2, lines 24-29**] for detecting activities in the message signal coming from the assigned network [**indicating activity on corresponding optical transmission line associated with a node, col. 2, lines 24-29, fig.2**] node [as disclosed in **col. 2, lines 19-33, the star node includes a plurality of interface means, for interfacing with the optical transmission lines, the interface means provides a line status signal indicating activity on the corresponding optical transmission line**] and

for transferring the message signal from the assigned network node to the other star interfaces or from another star interface to the assigned network node in dependence on at least one activity [**as disclosed in col. 2, lines 20-42 and claim 1, upon receiving**

a line status signal indicating activity from corresponding transmission line and the transmission data, the star node having a switching means (multiplexer implemented using NOR gates for switching/transferring the data to the destination node) for switching transmission data from each of the interface means to any one of the interface (destination) means, switching being dependent upon a ring protocol].

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 2-7 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Prior Art fails to disclose that the activity detector of a star interface activates the first switching element and deactivates the second switching element when a message occurs from the assigned network node and deactivates the first switching element and activates the second switching element when a message occurs from another network node in combination with other limitations set forth in the respective claim.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chirag G. Shah whose telephone number is 571-272-3144. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wellington Chin can be reached on 571-272-3134. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

cgs
October 3, 2005


Ajit Patel
Primary Examiner